

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

April 2015



APRIL PROGRAM

Bob Brehm, AK6R, chief engineer of Palomar Engineers, has been a ham for over 50 years with experience in contesting, RTTY, amplitude modulation, vintage radio restoration, boat anchors, linear amps, unique antennas, and station noise reduction.

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015

**JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988**

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M.

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A Word from the Prez . . .

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



Greetings members!

I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and that those of you who made the trek to Visalia had a great time. We were all set to go, but I had a new race fall into my schedule and couldn't make it this year. So this was sent to you live via satellite from N25° 33.604 W111°26.159

The Sun sure has been very active lately. Everything from dead bands to unexpected openings. Some fun ones I worked were SU9IG on 10M CW at 17:54z, YJ0XG at 13:57z 40M Phone (he was Loud) and YT9M 02:35z on 30M CW. Tomas Hood, NW7US sent a link to a video with the following commentary: <http://g.nw7us.us/5yrsofSunBySDO>

"This video features stunning clips of the Sun, captured by SDO from each of the five years since SDO's deployment in 2010. In this movie, watch giant clouds of solar material hurled out into space, the dance of giant loops hovering in the corona, and huge sunspots growing and shrinking on the Sun's surface.

Special thanks to Marty Woll, N6VI, for making the long trip to San Diego and the fine program about the DXPedition to The Gambia. He always does a good program and it's great to have a representative of the ARRL at our meetings.

The April meeting will be at The Sizzler. This month's presentation will be Bob Brehm, AK6R, on Hardcore RFI Solutions for Contesters & DXers. Find out how to work more DX, improve run rates, and keep your neighbors happy!

Bob is Chief Engineer of Palomar Engineers (www.Palomar-Engineers.com), and has been a ham for over 50 years with experience in contesting, RTTY, Amplitude Modulation, vintage radio restoration, boat anchors, linear amps, unique antennas, and station noise reduction. He is active on 3.870 AM and 3.895 Vintage SSB as well as other nets offering his expertise to new and old hams alike. Please join us for an evening of fun, food and camaraderie!

On the DX front, the DX0P Spratly's DXPedition is currently in operation. This is a self-funded expedition effort so any donations are greatly appreciated by the team. The expedition webs site is www.dxOp.org The ARRL has a number of other operations listed on their website: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive/ARLD015/2015>

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Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



San Diego DX Club – April 2015

Secretary's Report

The March 25 meeting was conducted by Wild Bill – WB6BFG who thanked Marty Woll - N6VI, ARRL SW Division Vice-Director for driving down from Chatsworth to give tonight's presentation.

Old Business – The "Wall of Shame" list was read (suffixes of those with delinquent dues) Bob Barrie K1ROA was welcomed into the group as a dues-paying member after having attended two meetings & submitting his application. John – NA6L gave a ClubLog update. SDDX Club was 34th globally and is (as of this writing) is currently listed as 17th. Keep uploading to ClubLog. Howard – KY6LA inquired about electronic payment of dues and offered to generate some sort of spreadsheet.

New Business – Ron – NØRR told the group about QSL storage boxes (free). SANDARC

Elections are coming up and the group was encouraged to support Joe – N6SIX.

A Roundtable discussion followed. John – K6AM announced the Top Ten lists & relayed to the group an update on Jim – W6YA who is recovering from "warranty work" on both his knees and settling into retirement. John also announced the Club's Rookie of the Year Award winner – Bud Hennessy – AE6BH. Congratulations Bud! After an intermission break, Marty – N6VI gave a presentation on a DXpedition to The Gambia and current ARRL topics including remote station rules and changes to DXCC.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance: 3/31/2015 \$7,390.89

Dues were due December 31. Dues are \$20 annually (\$30 for family memberships) and became delinquent January 31. Reminder e-mails were sent January 16.

Thanks to those of you who have already paid (AM, AQ, AR, BFG, BH, BIA, BK, BN, N6CW, N7CW, DEX, EAZ, EG, ERD, EZJ, FKB, FWS, W6GAK, GO, H, HDG, HLW, IGC, IHV, IM, JAC, JBR, JHD, JL, JO, JOJ, JRF, NN6K, WN6K, KA, KH, KI, KIM, L, LA, MB, MHZ, MUF, MY, NA, NBU, NC, NI, NNI, NO, O, OA, PEG, R, RGS, RHY, ROA, RR, SMK, UWW, V, VCM, VM, VNR, VS, WST, XB, XG, N6XT, YA, YI, YOO, YXI, Z, ZH, ZJ, ZO)

If your suffix is not listed here, please send your dues (or contact the Treasurer to rectify any errors – I'm human and every now and then I'm really good at making mistakes!)

Dues checks can be sent (payable to San Diego DX Club Inc) to:

Ellen Utschig

2104 Poplar Rd

Oceanside, CA 92058-2332

Ellen, N6UWW



THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 30 METERS

4/15	4/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	337	-
2.	2.	K6AM	40	320	326	328	-
3.	3.	K6XT	40	279	282	315	-
4.	4.	N7CW	40	289	289	311	-
5.	5.	W6YI	39	261	263	291	+6
6.	7.	K6ZH	39	251	256	276	+5
7.	6.	N6CW	37	?	215	275	+3
8.	8.	K0XB	40	249	251	257	+5
9.	9.	WN6K	37	173	175	240	-
10.	10.	W6YOO	33	225	227	227	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 15 METERS

4/14	4/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K6AM	40	334	343	344	-1
2.	3.	N6CW	40	?	331	342	+4
3.	2.	W6YI	40	328	336	339	+1
4.	6.	K0XB	40	320	327	329	+4
5.	4.	K6XT	40	303	312	329	-
6.	5.	N7CW	40	319	319	327	-
7.	8.	K6ZH	40	302	308	322	+7
8.	7.	W6YOO	40	313	318	318	-
9.	6.	WN6K	40	268	276	308	-
10.	10.	NA6L	40	276	277	291	NEW

With about half the players submitting a report this year, we again see some nice gains across the board. All of the action is in the below 300 crowd on 30 meters as it continues to be productive with some good openings worldwide. There's some jockeying for position amongst the leaders in the close race for the top on 15. Both bands should have a bit more life in them as we ride the wave of what appears to be a second hump to cycle 24.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, the other WARC bands, 160 and RTTY. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

A Word from the Prez (Cont'd). . .

Congratulations to club members for the very respectable scores they submitted for the last couple of contests: CQ World Wide WPX SSB Claimed Scores WN6K SOABLP 2,014,704 (a personal best) and NX6T (WQ6X N6ERD KB7V N6KI NN6X W6JBR et al) M2HP 8,173,956. ARRL DX SSB Claimed Scores WN6K SOABLP 648,324 and NX6T (K6GO N6CY N6ERD N6KI NA6MB W6JBR) MSHP 1,530,615. Summaries for other recent contests can be found here: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

In other DX related news: The officers and directors of INDEXA are quite excited with the news we received last week that INDEXA has been granted status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The Spring 2015 issue of the newsletter includes a letter from INDEXA President Gary Dixon (K4MQG) to the membership giving you some insight into the quiet effort of the past year to bring us to this day. INDEXA Newsletter-Issue-109-Spring2015 ([Click to Download](#))

Here's an interesting historical video about Amateur Radio from 1939! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK_fNmQxzs

Please remember that the club's newsletter is only as good as the information the editor receives, so please take the time to submit any DX related stories, tall tales, and musings of a madman or crazy lady for his consideration. Let's help Bob, K9RHY, keep our newsletter interesting.

73 & 88's to the pretty ones!

Wild Bill ~ WB6BFG

Wild Bill, WB6BFG

"To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk." Thomas Edison

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



The Last Emperor of Vietnam

"Cliff Notes" Version

PARIS — Bao Dai, the last emperor of Vietnam, who was forced to abdicate by the Communists in 1945, died in Paris at age 83 after living quietly under French administration and control for four decades.

Bao Dai was emperor of France's protectorate of Annam, now part of Vietnam from 1925 to 1945.

Bao Dai was born as Vinh Thuy on October 22, 1913, the son of Khai Dinh, emperor of Annam.



With the death of his father in 1925, he assumed the throne and the imperial name Bao Dai, which means "Keeper of Greatness."

Annam was long ago incorporated into French Indochina.

As Southeast Asia became more deeply involved in World War II, Bao Dai was co-opted by the Japanese to retain his throne to demonstrate continuity in Vietnam.

In 1945, Bao Dai abdicated.

As France began to reassert its colonial claim to much of northern and central Vietnam--then Tonkin and Annam--Bao Dai left Hanoi for China, where he lived until the Communist takeover there in 1949.

Urged by France to return to Vietnam as a possible alternative to Ho, Bao Dai eventually did, in 1949, and France made him Vietnam's chief of state.

When the 1954 peace accord between the French and the communists resulted in the division of Vietnam into north and south, Bao Dai tried to assume

true power in nominally independent South Vietnam.

But by 1955, he was deposed by Ngo Dinh Diem, who himself was later ousted and assassinated in a U.S.-backed coup. Vietnam's last emperor fled to France, spent years in exile on Reunion Island except for a few years in Hong Kong.

Bao Dai and was an active ham and DXer.

Long(er) Story

Credit (and bouquets) for the remainder of this story goes to Jim McCook, W6YA. Last month, with just a bit of prodding I promised Jim another "history of DX story" as the SDDXC cover story had been based on the unlikely historic event of the last Emperor of Vietnam's life on the French Ile de La Réunion (Reunion Island).

When I was developing the story, Jim's name and call were inadvertently transposed with a file describing Jim Price, K6ZH/ZF2AH. Regrettably, my kudos for the originality of the content was directed to Jim Price instead of Jim McCook. My mistake. Sorry, Jim. And thanks to Jim for the correction.

Cover Photo

No, the cover picture is not a recruitment poster for an IOTA expedition, but more a starting point for this month's narrative.

For those of us (like me) who came of age during the 1960's, Vietnam has a special place in our hearts and minds. In my case, however, it was a place I DID NOT want to visit.

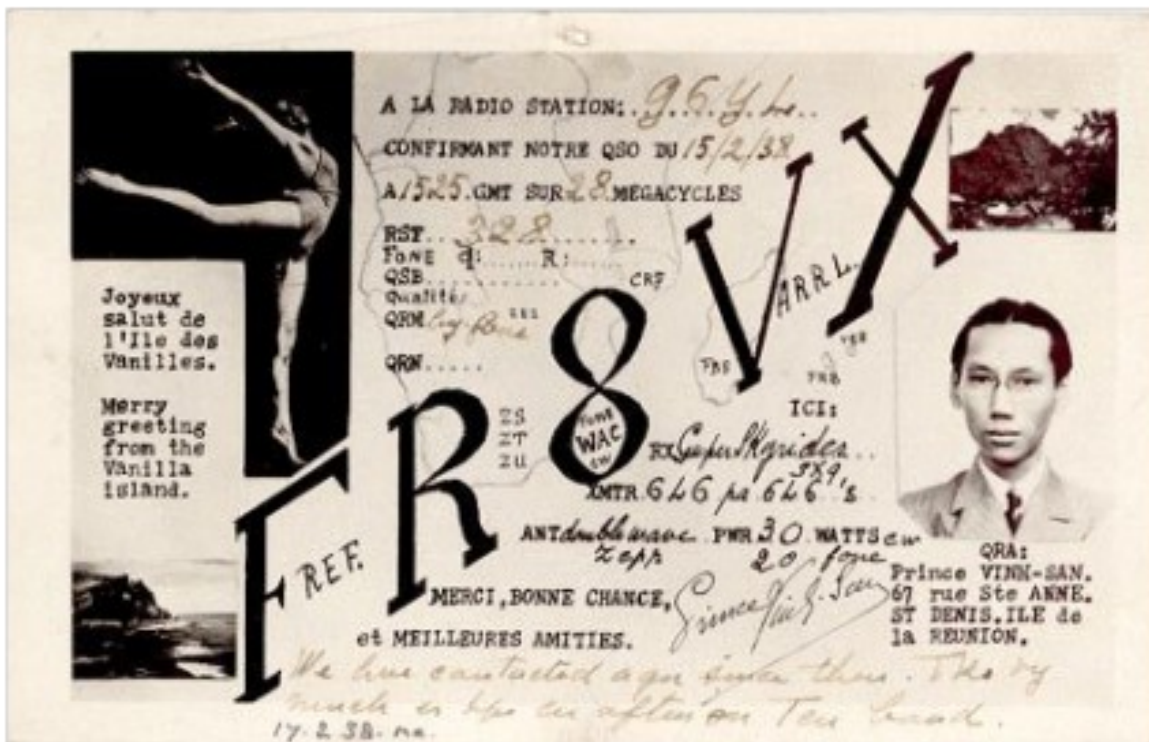


The cover picture was taken at Vietnam's Halong Bay, located in the northern part of Vietnam, certainly one of the most magnificent attractions in Southeast Asia. It is also less than 500 miles from the actual starting point of this adventure. (Trust me when I say that now, quite a few years after the fall of Saigon in 1975 and the end of the war, some of the locals still DO NOT care much for Americans.)

30 years later, my business associates in Hanoi introduced me to the sights and sounds of this beautiful and scenic country, including some wonderful people and what have become some of my favorite foods.

For the geography buffs, Réunion is a French island with a population of 840,974 inhabitants located in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar, about 200 kilometers southwest of Mauritius,

Before jumping into this story, I want to tip my hat to any writer/historian/biographer/author who tackles the history of Vietnam (and for that matter, any Asian country). Much of the data available is contradictory. Names, dates and lineage all change from source to source.



The same person can have multiple names (sometimes at the same time!). History varies greatly depending upon the historian and the current political situation. Frequently, wars intervene to change historical events. Multiple sources frequently produce inconsistent results. It can be maddening. So, I suspect, this narrative may include some errors in fact. For that I apologize.

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The Last Emperor

As the story opens, Annam was a French protectorate encompassing the central region of Vietnam. The region had been seized by the French by 1884 and became part of French Indochina in 1887. Two other Vietnamese regions, Cochinchina (*Nam Kỳ*) in the South and Tonkin (*Bắc Kỳ*) in the North, were also parts of French Indochina. The region had a dual system of French and Vietnamese administration. The Nguyễn Dynasty still nominally ruled Annam, with a puppet emperor residing in Huế. In 1949, the protectorate was merged into the newly established State of Vietnam. The region was divided between communist North Vietnam and anti-communist South Vietnam under the terms of the Geneva Accord of 1954.

Prince Nguyen Phuc Vinh Thuy (who became Bao Dai in one of those name changes I mentioned earlier) was born in Hue in Annam, close to the South China Sea coast. He was the son of Khai Dinh of the Nguyen dynasty, the nominal ruler of Annam, though in reality a French puppet.

Hue was the capital of Annam and the royal palace where the little boy grew up was reserved for the rulers and their wives, concubines and other subordinates and forbidden territory for everyone else.



When he was nine the young prince was sent to Paris for a French education, at first at the Lycée Condorcet (whose other former pupils included Marcel Proust). He was 12 when his father died in 1925 and he succeeded to the throne, taking the name Bao Dai, meaning 'Keeper of Greatness'. He then returned to Paris to continue his studies.

If you were an active DXer in the 1930's, the only way you could add Reunion Island to your DXCC list was by working FR8VX. He was the only ham there. If you'd like to go behind the call sign to learn something of this unique personality from DXing's rich past, then keep reading.

This story actually starts in 1428, following a series of ugly wars going back to the 3rd century BC when the Kingdom of Annam became subject to Chinese control. Annam, which was then most of what later became French Indo-China and now Vietnam, became autonomous under Chinese authority. In 1789, with the aid of the French government, Annam freed itself entirely from Chinese control. But it was not long before France, Vietnam's "ally", became the aggressor.

In 1858 Napoleon III attacked Annam, acquiring Cochinchina (China) and Tongking (now part of South Vietnam), and in 1886 the remainder of the Kingdom of Annam became a French protectorate. Although technically a monarchy, ruled by the King with the aid of the "Secret Council of six", it was actually governed by the French Resident-Superior and his staff. The region had a dual system of French and Vietnamese administration. The Nguyễn Dynasty still nominally ruled Annam, with a puppet emperor residing in Huế. In 1949, the protectorate was merged in the newly established State of Vietnam. The region was divided between communist North Vietnam and anti-communist South Vietnam under the terms of the Geneva Accord of 1954.

But what has all this to do with the Last Emperor of Vietnam and ham radio?

First, just a bit more background (I promise). When the French took over the Kingdom of Annam they deposed the existing ruler and, in 1889, placed 13-year-old Prince Bun Lan on the throne as King Than Thai. As the king grew older, the French decided that their interests were diverging and in 1907 he was forced to abdicate.

Than Thai had a son named Vinh San (born 1899—died Dec. 26, 1945), emperor of Vietnam from 1907 to 1916 and symbol of the Vietnamese anti-colonialist movement against the French before and during World War I. In selecting his successor, the French authorities overlooked the claims of the eldest son and placed Duy Tan on the throne at the age of 7. Vinh San continued to live in the capital of Annam until 1916 yet another disruption brought yet another emperor to the throne.

Vinh San was the son of Emperor Thanh Thai, who was deposed by the French. Seeking a more compliant figure to be their puppet king, the French proclaimed Vinh San emperor on September 5, 1907. Upon his accession, he assumed the name Duy Tan,

Duy Tan was sympathetic to the plans of the Vietnamese liberation leaders, who needed the symbol and sanction of royalty to win popular support. He cooperated with rebel plans to stage revolts in the provinces of Thua Thien, Quang Nam, and Quang Ngai in central Vietnam in 1916. Details of the plot, however, leaked to the French. The attacks were unsuccessful, and Duy Tan was caught trying to escape to a mountain sanctuary; on May 13, 1916, he was dethroned by the French and exiled to Réunion island.

At the time Duy Tan (Vinh San) was "exiled" (the photos that follow will give you an impression of the "hardships" he was forced to endure as an exile) to Reunion Island there was little for an exiled prince to do to stay active and alert. But Vinh San made the best of his predicament. Naturally of a scientific bent, he took up electricity and wireless as his primary interests.

In 1917 he erected the first antenna on Reunion, using a galena crystal detector, to make weather and storm observations. During three years of operation this equipment—entirely home-brew (because shipments from outside were very difficult owing to the remoteness of Reunion's rockbound coast from world water-ways) —enabled the observance of many interesting natural phenomena. In 1919 the Prince undertook the study of earth currents, in connection with Reunion's living volcano, Piton de la Fournaise. His more esoteric scientific activities include the correlation of radio conditions with cyclone formation, succeeding in 1930 in the "determination of cyclonic centers and their translation."

It was in 1920 that he built his first transmitter using a Rhumkorff coil (the induction transformer for a spark transmitter) which covered 18 miles, the first wireless transmission on Reunion. In 1924 he graduated to vacuum tubes, acquiring a small triode. Two years later saw the start of a long agitation by him in the local press for the erection of a radio broadcasting station. From 1926 to 1930 he busied himself with a 40-watt broadcaster on 180 meters. In its early days he built up a hundred or more receivers for his friends to popularize the innovation. The station was heard as far away as Mauritius using the call sign 04XV.

Finally, an official station was installed, and the 04XV activity was shut down and replaced by FR8VX.

It was 1933 when the Prince actually began active hamming. On October 12th he had his first QSO on 40 meters, with ZS2A. His call then was FB8VIC, which he used until November, 1935, when he changed it to FR8VX. In short order he worked all continents, using both 7 and 14 MHz. In December, 1935, he had the thought of observing radio conditions at the top of Piton des Areiges, an extinct volcano that was the highest point on the island (3069 meters high). Together with Paul Bunderwoet, formerly a radio officer with the French commercial navy, he camped for 12 days in a natural cavern near the summit. With a portable transmitter using flashlight cells and operating with less than 2 watts, many QSOs were made with Australia and South Africa.

A commentary on the normal climate of Reunion is the Prince's emphasis on the weather conditions at the peak, where there was "such a cold that wooden fire was needed from sunset, to next, morning." After getting on the air, FR8VX's first W contact was with W8MAH. The first in each of the other U.S.A. call letter areas were WIFOZ, W2HPL, W3CHG, W4EF, W5EBT, W6CNX, and W9NBM (no 7's). The normal power was 20 watts, with no more than 40 at any time. The Prince found W's hard to work, the only good time being 2300 UTC, but then, static and QRM were both bad. His regular operating periods were from 1800 to 2200 UTC (10 P.M. to 2 "A.M. his time). The first two hours are usually spent on 14,340, while during the last, two he moves to the edge of the band to avoid W QRM.

During World War II, Duy Tan served in Europe with the Free French Army as Major Vinh San. He was among the early followers of the Free French leader General Charles de Gaulle and was awarded the highest French honors for bravery, most importantly cited as "Companion of the French Liberation." He was killed in an airplane crash and is buried in what is now the Central African Republic.



The Emperor's exile residence



A room of King Bao Dai for receiving guest.



Queen Nam Phuong's private room.



A pair of elephant's tusks that were hunted by Bao Dai



Lobbies in Bao Dai's Palace communicate with each other.



Foreign tourists record images inside the palace.



The showroom of images and belongings of Bao Dai.



Bed room



The garden on the grounds of the palace.



A tourist poses for a photo in royal dress.



Visitors are interested in a classic car placed out-

Dear Fellow Radio Amateurs,

The Russian Digital Radio Club has the honor to invite the radio amateurs all over the world to participate in the Digital Activity Days RDRC "01-10". The objective of the Digital Activity Days is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs around the world and radio amateurs in Russia.

We invite all fans of digital modes to take part in Digital Activity Days from 00.00 UTC on 1st May till 23:59 UTC on 10th May, 2015.

15th types of modulation: CONTESTIA, DOMINO, HELL, JT65, JT9, MFSK, MT63, OLIVIA, PSK, ROS, RTTY, SIM-PSK, SSTV, THOR, THROB.

9th bands: 160 m, 80 m, 40 m, 30 m, 20 m, 17m, 15 m, 12 m, 10 m.

For more info please visit Digital Activity Days RDRC "01-10" 2015 Rules:

<http://www.rdrclub.ru/dni-aktivnosti-rtssrk/244-digital-activity-days-rdrc-rules>

73! - Russian Digital Radio Club



Bao Dai's Palace attracts a large number of visitors.

A HAM RADIO ENCOUNTER IN CUBA

Jim K6ZH and Joan N6KIM

In March of this year, we joined a Grand Circle Foundation travel group for a fascinating trip to Cuba. We started and ended in Miami – with charter flights to and from Havana. We spent time in Havana, Cienfuegos, and Trinidad – the latter two cities being on the Caribbean coast. This was a “people-to-people cultural exchange visit,” not a tourist trip. And each day we had some manner of people-to-people experience, be it a senior center, the homes of artisans, day care center, or a rehearsal by a modern dance troupe.

We also made our own people-to-people arrangements: we had dinner with a Cuban ham and his family in Havana. Months before this trip I had e-mailed Chip K7JA, knowing that he had spent time in Cuba previously. He suggested a couple of hams for me to contact; the one who responded was Arnie CO2KK. Long story short – we had a very nice dinner in a local restaurant with Arnie, his wife Roxana, and daughter Claudia. Among other things, Arnie does a radio show on Radio Havana about shortwave broadcasting, antennas, etc. And he’s been a professor. He’s not on the air at home at the moment, but he’s a member of the local radio club which has a station (and log periodic) in a skyscraper downtown.

We took a taxi from our lovely Hotel Nacional to Arnie’s home. But not just any taxi. As you’ve probably heard, there are many American cars of the 1950s still on the road in Cuba. And it’s true in spades: I’d estimate that 20% of the cars we saw on the road were of this vintage. Basically people have inherited them from parents or grandparents; these cars are among the few that are privately owned in Cuba. There’s a significant cottage industry in the country to keep these cars on the road – repairs, parts, servicing, etc. Which leads up to: the taxi that we rode in was a 1959 Thunderbird convertible! What a pleasure.



The trip turned out to be way better than we had anticipated – in any way you can think of. The hotels were very nice, food was great, our local tour guide was terrific, and the people we met were so friendly – and hopeful about improving relations between the US and Cuba. Entrepreneurialism is breaking out in Cuba – and once the tourist dam bursts, it’s going to be crazy down there. If you’ve ever wanted to visit Cuba, we suggest going sooner than later!

And ham radio comes through again to enhance a fine International experience.